

## BEAVERTON ARTS EDUCATION SUMMIT Follow Up Report and Meeting Materials

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006, over 40 individuals representing local government, schools, social service groups, and private interests gathered at the Arts and Communication Magnet Academy for the first Beaverton Arts Education Summit. A list of all participants is provided as an appendix to this report. The event was hosted by the Education Committee of the Beaverton Arts Commission (BAC) and the Oregon Alliance for Arts Education (OAAE), and was designed to provide the following outcomes:

- Serve as a forum in which various community perspectives towards the arts and arts education could be heard
- Increase the participation of the community at large in the long term planning and mission development of the BAC
- Identify important resources upon which to draw in the process of achieving the mission of the BAC and its education committee

Opening remarks from key note speaker K C Cowan set the stage for the meeting's main goal: the development of a comprehensive vision for arts education in Beaverton. This goal originated during the BAC's annual strategic planning sessions, and was aimed at insuring that the Commission and its Education Committee had sufficient community feedback prior to initiating long term planning related to their actions in support of education in the arts.

The working agenda for the meeting featured two main components: First, participants were invited to join one of five focus groups, each dealing with a specific phase of the educational continuum. These phases included Early Childhood, Grades 6 – 12, Higher Education, Professionalism and Work Force Training, and Lifelong Learning. Once in these groups, participants were asked to develop their dialogues around a number of broad topics which had been previously developed by the Education Committee. These included (a) key issues, (b) community vision, (c) community resources, (d) accessibility, (e) needs assessment, and (f) recommendations.

After about an hour of discussion, each focus group selected a spokesperson(s) and then made short presentations of their findings. The raw data from each focus group is provided as an appendix to this report. While each of the groups focused on a different aspect of the education continuum, several important themes developed that were more or less universal (representative, not exhaustive).

Communications – Comments included Lack of awareness – people don't know it's (art and art education) missing; Develop a public communication strategy of

the value of arts education; Reinforce the importance of the creative culture...; Create a public relations task force...; and Consider aiming...communications more directly at specific subgroups.

Access – Consistent programs; Access to the arts for ALL; ...concern that at-risk populations do not have as much access to the arts; Not all schools have arts & music programs...; and the BAC needs to more clearly develop, fully articulate, and aggressively pursue its Access Agenda.

Needs – Central organization to coordinate resources and activities; ...increased cultural diversity in arts education; Links between business, professional practice; On-going professional development opportunities for arts specialists and artists; and Develop broader, more creative funding strategies.

At the conclusion of the program participants were asked to complete an evaluation survey that asked for a rating of the Summit and for any additional comments. It is clear from both ratings and comments that the Summit was an unqualified success, and that the process is effective in developing resources – e.g., *A Whole New Mind* by Daniel Pink, resource materials from participants, and information from OAAE – as well as perspectives.

Many participants expressed a strong interest in becoming involved in various aspects of a strong arts education agenda for the BAC. These individuals are identified in the Participants appendix.

Next Steps: Using the information garnered from this Summit, the BAC will proceed with the development of an Arts Education Agenda that is complete with timelines, task assignments, and deadlines for its implementation. Thanks to the Summit, this agenda is much more likely to be consistent with broad-based community values, as well as with the BAC Strategic plan. We will keep you posted on our progress.

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The BAC, the Education Committee, and the OAAE would especially like to acknowledge the following individuals and thank them for the important contributions they made to the success of the Summit:

Noella Redhawk and her daughter Whitney Reasoner for the moving Native American drum dance they performed;

Robyn and Brian Shaylor for the musical interlude they provided with their violin and guitar;

K C Cowan for the generous donation of her time and her rousing opening remarks;

Principal Michael Johnson and the Arts and Communication Academy for the facilities and unstinting cooperation;

The BAC and the Education Committee would also like to thank Sharon Morgan and the OAAE for their direct support and considerable encouragement. Without their involvement, this Summit could not have been the tremendously successful event it turned out to be.

Finally, we would like to thank all the people who gave up a Saturday morning to come to the Summit and share their knowledge and insights. Your dedication to the arts, your service to the community, and your support of the BAC are deeply appreciated.

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